

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

GRANT PRIDECO, INC., et al. § CASE NO. 4:23-cv-0730
§ HOUSTON, TX
VERSUS § WEDNESDAY,
§ JUNE 7, 2023
SCHLUMBERGER TECHNOLOGY § 10:36 AM TO 10:44 AM
CORPORATION, et al. §

INITIAL CONFERENCE

BEFORE THE HONORABLE SAM S. SHELDON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

FOR THE PARTIES: SEE NEXT PAGE

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1 HOUSTON, TEXAS; WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023; 10:36 AM

2 THE COURT: Okay. Good morning, everybody. We were
3 here on Grant Prideco versus Schlumberger Technology
4 Corporation, et al. Case is 23-cv-730. So let me -- whoever's
5 taking the lead for the Plaintiff, why don't you introduce
6 yourself and introduce who's with you.

7 MR. SUSMAN: Thank you, Your Honor. It's Harry
8 Susman with Susman Godfrey for the Plaintiffs and with me is
9 Kevin Leyendecker of AVM and Armando is I believe on from my
10 firm. Yeah, Armando Lozano is on -- sorry -- from Susman
11 Godfrey. And that's it from our side.

12 THE COURT: Okay. And on the Defendants' side?

13 MR. KANE: Ryan Kane, Your Honor, from Kirkland &
14 Ellis on behalf of the Ulterra Defendants and the SLB
15 Defendants and with me is Gregg LoCascio.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And who else is here for the other
17 Defendants?

18 MR. JUREN: You have Matthew Juren and Kelly Stephens
19 for the Varel Defendants.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MR. BRAWLEY: And then Garrett Brawley on behalf of
22 Ulterra as well.

23 THE COURT: Okay. So your case is assigned to Judge
24 Hanen. Judge Hanen will rule on all outstanding motions and
25 anything going forward substantive unless it's referred to me.

1 So we have two competing scheduling orders. Before I even get
2 there, though, there's a protective order. Does everybody
3 agree on the protective order?

4 MR. SUSMAN: Yes, Your Honor, for the Plaintiffs.

5 MR. KANE: Yes, Your Honor, for the Defendants as
6 well.

7 THE COURT: So we'll go ahead and we'll enter the
8 protective order. As to the scheduling orders, this is my
9 thought. So I reviewed them all and there's only a few
10 differences in the actual main dates, but it's all -- but the
11 Defendants want all the granular dates to be set and so I think
12 that that's going to be an issue for Judge Hanen, that we can
13 set the big dates and then the Defendants can raise that issue
14 as far as all the other dates in between.

15 So let me start with -- just so I can give Judge
16 Hanen -- on the time estimate for trial, Plaintiff is saying 10
17 to 12 days and Defendant was saying 4 days per Defendant. So
18 is the Defendant saying that there's -- days -- their best
19 estimate is 24 days for a trial?

20 MR. KANE: No, Your Honor. There's three Defendant
21 groups.

22 THE COURT: Okay. So there's three. Okay. So then
23 the parties are basically in agreement on that 10 to 12 days
24 then.

25 MR. KANE: Correct. I think that the deviation or

1 the split between the two parties is whether it should be a
2 single trial or separate trials by Defendant group.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Got you. Oh, okay. So you want
4 three separate trials, roughly, four days per Defendant?

5 MR. KANE: Yes, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So I'll just note that. Now the
7 only other substantive difference that I noticed was the
8 deadline to amend pleadings without leave. Plaintiff had
9 August 4th and Defendant had October 4th. Is that correct?

10 MR. SUSMAN: I think that is -- that's correct. I
11 think that is the one. You spotted the difference.

12 THE COURT: Okay. So I'm just going to split the
13 baby on that. I'm going to make it September 6th, 2023, will
14 be the deadline to amend pleadings. And then let me give you
15 all the big dates just so we're all clear. And Shannon, I'll
16 go over with you offline with this, but the new parties to be
17 joined by June 21st, 2023.

18 Deadline to amend pleadings without leave of Court,
19 September 6th, 2023. Fact discovery completed by May 15th,
20 2024. The party with the burden of proof on the experts will
21 be May 31st, 2024. Party not having the burden of proof will
22 be June 28, 2024. Expert discovery completed by July 24, 2024.
23 Dispositive and Daubert motions by August 21st, 2024. Non-
24 dispositive motions, August 21st, 2024. And here's the final
25 three dates: current pre-trial order, February 17th, 2025;

1 final pre-trial conference, 1:30 p.m. on March 17th, 2025; and
2 then trial set on 9:00 a.m. on March 31st, 2025.

3 And then again, I think you can raise the issue as to
4 the other specific deadlines in between with Judge Hanen.

5 So let me start with you, Mr. Susman. Anything else
6 -- any questions for anything else you'd like me to cover?

7 MR. SUSMAN: Yeah. I do think the parties had two
8 minor disagreements on issues. I'm not sure whether you want
9 Judge Hanen to handle those. One had to do with the number of
10 custodians for the ESI order which was -- we did propose five
11 for the Plaintiffs. Defendants want 15 and then there was an
12 issue about interrogatories, the limits of interrogatories.

13 THE COURT: Yeah. So that will be -- unless he
14 refers it to me, then that will be an issue for him.

15 MR. SUSMAN: Right.

16 THE COURT: Anything else among the Defendants?

17 MR. KANE: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Well, good luck, gentlemen and
19 have a great day.

20 MR. SUSMAN: Thank you, Judge.

21 MR. KANE: Thank you.

22 (Hearing adjourned at 10:44 AM)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N
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3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certified that the foregoing
4 transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

5 *Sonya M. Ledanski Hyde*
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8 Sonya Ledanski Hyde
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Date: June 16, 2023